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# **ASUW SENATE MINUTES**

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The August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting was called to order by Vice President Titus at 7:00pm. The mission statement and the land acknowledgement statement were read and roll was taken. No Senators were absent.

## **SWEARING IN OF NEW SENATORS**

The new senators were sworn into their position by Vice President Titus.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Senator Hoversland moved to allow the Chief Of legislative Affairs to add President Talamantes' report.

Senator Wilkins seconded.  
Motion passed.

The minutes were approved as amended.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Senator Hoversland moved to add the Intercession Oversight Committee to committee reports.

Senator Wilkins seconded.  
Motion passed.

Senator Wilkins moved to bring New Business up to after the Special Event.

Senator Hoversland seconded.  
Motion passed.

The agenda was approved as amended.

## **OPEN FORUM**

A speaker inquired as to how the SO Funding Board plans to distribute funding to SOs during the course of the semester, or if they were planning on holding on to available funds.

Senator Hoversland responded, saying that they planned to working with the ASUW Director of Marketing to spread the word on how they would be able to distribute funding, as they planned to distribute their funds as much as possible.

A speaker further inquired if there was the ability for RSOs to apply for additional funding outside of the budget they had already been given.

Senator Hoversland replied that there is currently no way to apply for additional funding through ASUW, but that there was the possibility that could be explored in the future.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

There was no special event.

## **CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVES**

Senator Hoversland moved to approve Hunter Swilling as the Chief of Legislative Affairs.  
Senator Wilkins seconded.  
Motion passed 28-0-0.

Senator Hoversland moved to approve Lauara Perez as the Director of Diversity.  
Senator Wilkins seconded.  
Motion passed 28-0-0.

Senator Wilkins moved to approve CeeJay Berg as Director of Finance and Student Organizations.  
Senator Hoversland seconded.  
Motion passed 28-0-0.

Senator Millburn moved to approve Venkat Santosh Madhyanam as the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis  
Senator Greig seconded  
Motion passed 28-0-0.

Senator Hoversland moved to approve Taylor Nielsen as the Director of Governmental & Community Affairs.  
Senator Wilkins seconded.  
Motion passed 28-0-0.

Senator Hoversland moved to approve Haley Harris as the Director of Student Wellness and Sustainability.  
Senator Wilkins seconded.  
Motion passed 28-0-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Senator Wilkins moved to approve the ASUW Standing Committee Assignments as shown.  
Senator Horton seconded.

Senator Hoversland moved to amend the ASUW Standing Committee Assignments to put Senator Millburn in the Budget and Planning Committee and replace him with Senator Perryman.

Senator Wilinkins seconded.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 28-0-0.

The motion to adopt ASUW Standing Committee Assignments as amended was adopted by a vote of 28-0-0.

Senator Wilkins moved to suspend Article 2, Section 1, sub-section 2.01, Article B of the ASUW Rules and Procedures until the Senate can once again meet in the Senate Chambers.

Senator Hoversland seconded.

The motion passed.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Executive Reports**

President Talamantes said “Thank you madame Chair, I am just going to go over some of the main things that are brought up on my summer report that I sent to you all, because it summarizes some of the bigger things that we accomplished this summer. One of the big points is the COVID-19 survey that happened at the end of May, at the end of Spring 2020 the university sent out communications regarding the opening of the university in the next semester, and there were a lot of things in the air. They weren’t sure as to what mask or social distancing requirements would be necessary, or how classes would like. We were approached by a Senator asking if we would put up a COVID-19 survey regarding their thoughts on the Fall 2020 semester, and this ran for two weeks in May and gave students the chance to give their thoughts. I thank the Senator for their proactive involvement in the Senate. This also gave ASUW a voice in how the university is making choices in regards to COVID. Secondly, we had done the end-of-the-year spending, this year we had about \$76,000 to spend after the conclusion of the 107<sup>th</sup>, much of which was union bond debt that we did not end up having to pay, and since there was a vacancy in the student legal services, we also had quite a bit of salary left over. The executive branch asked the IOC for approval to spend \$56,939.19, and we spent about \$42,000 of that money and we are still pending some purchases from copy and print and the university bookstore. You can see in the summer report some of the expenditures to be able to see the actual numbers, after reaching out to many of our partners and programs such as First-Year Senate, Non-Traditional Student Council, and United Multicultural Council to see what they needed to be restocked, as well as purchasing some of the usual ASUW swag for the year. We wanted to make sure that your money was being spent wisely and we did that in a couple of different ways. We have purchased many hand sanitizers and ASUW face masks that we hope to give out to students and Senators, and we have funded multiple initiatives, including marketing materials for Greendot’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness training and program, as well as funds to help restock the food pantry and the purchasing of 20 new laptops for IT to help students without a laptop to help them access education online, and the computers from ASUW are pretty sweet. There is a chart for all of these specific expenditures in the summer report. As for the executive positions, thank you all for filling those, I am happy to say that it was a very competitive pool and we had a lot of applicants come to their interviews with tons of new ideas. We did have two positions that look a little bit different from the 107<sup>th</sup> administration, first Director of Finance and Student Organizations have been combined due to an anticipated decrease in SOs requesting funding, and second we changed the Director of Programming and Events to the Director of Strategic Partners and Events, and since we added another entity as a partner, we felt it was best to dedicate this position to accomplishing our goals within the branch, but there were no applicants we felt confident in, and thus we left it vacant. However, this gave us the great opportunity to create the new position of Director of Financial

Planning and Analysis, and we had two amazing applicants, but we had noticed an increasing need regarding student need for more transparency regarding student fees, and we felt it was best to hire both these nominees, CeeJay and Santosh. I really appreciated all the execs who came to their interviews with fantastic ideas regarding online engagement and how to interact with students in this unprecedented time for ASUW. Thank you again for confirming them, I think they'll do a great job. Next, regarding opportunity for collaboration, VP Titus and I completed a series of internships meeting where we met with administrators to discuss potential, a few things came out of this. First, we discussed potentially creating a Safety and Wellness committee within the ASUW so we can continue having conversation about safety and student health during this time. Second, we are working with SLCE on their Pokes Vote campaign, to ensure that students are educated and have easy access to be able to vote and know where they can get registered. This is going to be something that is going to be quite big this year with our new Director of Governmental and Community Affairs, who is going to work with the SLCE office closely. Another thing regarding our strategic partners, we are looking at goals of the partnership and ways to improve collaboration, we met with ACRES Student Farm, who are in the process of creating a strategic plan for the next four years that bolsters student involvement and education in the farm. We met with them and the Dean of the College of Agriculture, and talked a little bit about the possibility of ASUW taking ACRES in as a program, and they are very excited. We are hoping this is something we accomplish this year, to give ACRES more support and use their food to bolster the food pantries that we have on campus. And lastly, probably the biggest thing that we did in terms of collaboration this year is the student fee process. In July we can working with Aaron Courtney in Student Financial Services to audit where our students fees were going in response to the petition from students, and with the help of our Director of Financial Planning, we're hoping to improve the process of offering ASUW recommendations by combining our fee committees into one large committee, and we are hoping that a new committee can continue the conversation going and make it more proactive as to where they're going and how the students want their fees spent. One last thing, the student success priorities, I believe during the 106<sup>th</sup> administration ASUW and the BoT amended their tuition policies, 2% of that would be allocated for ASUW to make recommendations for student success. VP Titus outlined a document with those basic priorities, we allocated funding to fight food insecurity, Greenspot for sexual assault prevention, mental health services, and across campus free women's hygiene products (pads and tampons.) That's all I had for my report, this summer was a very busy time for ASUW, and this year I think we have a lot of influence in some of the decisions for the university, so if you have any ideas, let me know, because this year we can influence things.

Chief of Staff Rhymes said "Over the past few weeks I've had the privilege of assisting President Talamantes and Vice President Titus in assisting with hiring the executive team, hiring a diverse and highly competitive team after conducting over two dozen interviews. I will say that we are certainly in a season of problem solving, and we believe the creation of this new position is a sign of us listening to the needs of the unique student body, as we navigate a strange new year. We look forward to seeing how this position matures, seeing how they tackle acute problems and lay the groundwork for future work. We also successfully hosted the first fully virtual executive retreat. We are looking forward to increase the capability in the future to do virtual training events and increase our repertoire of tools we can use. We hope we can create standards and protocols that future administrations can use."

Director of Diversity Perez had nothing to report to the Senate.

Director of Finance and Student Organizations, who said “Some goals that I am currently working on, first I am working on setting up a monthly round table meeting with student organization leaders on a college by college basis so these meetings can remain small and we can bounce ideas off each other, and they can ask me for help or I can answer any questions they may have. My second goal is to work with the Director of Marketing to help put up weekly posts on how student organizations can get funding from ASUW or about different ASUW funded events happening.”

Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Madhyanam, who said “Thank you for confirming me. I’m working on several projects, including (he cuts out for the next minute and nothing he says is intelligible). I believe this is more understandable for the year university, and I am hoping to make headway on this project in the next week.

Director of Community and Governmental Affairs Nielsen has nothing to report to the Senate.

Director of Wellness and Sustainability Harris said “For the past week and a half I’ve been attending meetings with the food security task force to help them determine what they’re going to look like in the future. We also briefly went over what the food pantries will look like due to the COVID concerns when we move into Phase 2 and 3. Once we figure out what the Dean of Students plans to do in that area, we will continue on with the marketing advancements. So far I’ve been trying to find ways to help take students’ mind off of the fact that we’re doing virtual school and help them get involved with their community, though in a mostly virtual format. Davud burton from ACRES is planning on doing a webinar on basic cooking and recipe skills, and we’re looking for volunteers to make the videos.

Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling said “Thank you all so much for confirming me as your chief of legislative affairs. I promise to work hard during my tenure and make ASUW work more smoothly for all students. If anyone has any ideas for legislation, please know that I am always available and would love to help you with that. I’m sure that VP Titus and Senators Hoversland, Houghton, and Wilkins would also be willing to help out. If you have any ideas, feel free to schedule a Zoom meeting with me, my Calendar link is located on my email signature, or you can just email me directly. Over the course of this week, I’ve gotten to work as your Chief of Legislative affairs, and one of my current focuses for the upcoming week is finding special events for the Senate in the coming weeks. If anyone knows anyone who would like to do a special event, please shoot me an email! Additionally, I have the process of looking through the bylaws and proposing edits, and I hope to have that finished and submitted for a vote to the Senate by the end of the semester. We also plan on working with our Director of Diversity Perez in translating those revised documents into Spanish.”

Vice President Titus said “I took an active role in the ASUW Food Insecurity Task Force and worked to identify food insecurity as a Student Success Priority. If you’d like to see the complete list of priorities that we identified, see the document I sent out earlier. We worked with the IOC

to decide on this list and the order that they are in. Due to the economic strain that is on the University this year, there wasn't any tuition dollars to allocate towards these priorities but we worked with VP of Financial Affairs Jewell and with the IOC to allot reserve funds and ASUW's end-of-year spending. More details on our End of year Spending can be found in President Talamantes' Summer Report. President Talamantes and I met with many folks across the campus this year. We identified many areas of partnership and collaboration. We shared our platforms of community, collaboration, and care and will continue these relationships in order to advance the goals of ASUW this year. I updated committee and committee chair expectations. I have shared those with your committee chairs and all of you have access to the SharePoint to access them. As a whole, we have been thinking more critically about how we onboard folks here in ASUW so I would welcome any feedback you have on our onboarding processes and any Senators who would like to assist in continuing to create better onboarding processes for ASUW members in the future should reach out to me. I worked with a small group of interested Senators and Justices to revise our elections policy and process. Be on the lookout for legislation regarding this and feel free to share any of your thoughts regarding elections with me. We began reviewing our endowments and reserves in an effort to more consciously spend this money this year in light of COVID-19. Notably, we created an executive position of the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis to better facilitate student fee transparency and effective use of ASUW endowments and reserves. All things considered, I have decided to just work in the activities that would usually take place at our retreat over the next couple months during our Senate meetings either as Special Events or during processing. Tonight, we didn't have a Special Event so I will use that time saved to break you out into your committees and your colleges to talk with each other and do some goal-setting. I will explain that process more when we get to Committee and College Reports, respectively. College Contacts, review the expectations document and prepare to give your first report on what y'all discussed. Since we will be working mostly remote this year, we have set up ways that will help facilitate this. We have created a SharePoint site to share files, a Microsoft Teams to better communicate, and a Microsoft Planner to keep track of project progress and due dates. I will now share my screen and take you through each of these platforms quickly. I encourage you all to utilize Planner to set some goals during our breakout sessions later with your Colleges and Committees."

Advisor Wheeler said "Thank you Madame Chair and thank you all very much Senators. First I just wanted to welcome you back to campus or back to school if you're not on campus yet. I wish you all the best of luck as you navigate whatever happens in this time of uncertainty and unknowns. I know that myself and many others are thankful and impressed with how adaptive and appreciative of how adaptive you all are. This summer was great and odd, I am very happy to have worked with Vice President Titus and President Talamantes, I am impressed with how on the ball they are and with how many initiatives they've started and how many people across campus they've spoken to. I look forward to seeing what they can do with your help and for the students on campus. Thank you all for your patience with this meeting, I know it's a longer one with getting all of the executives confirmed. Thank you for all the questions from Senator Hoversland, among others, and I look forward to all the legislation you bring forward.

Accountant Schaefer thanked everyone for coming back and reported that it was so nice to be back in Senate, as it's been a long and busy summer. She congratulated President Talamantes and Vice President Titus, who have hit the ground running and accomplished a lot. However, it's been sad

not having students on campus, as even though she does geek out about budgets, being an account, her favorite part of the job is the student interaction. Hopefully this fall we can find some creative ways to get to know each other, please don't hesitate to reach out via email, teams, or other members, as Advisor Wheeler and I want to be as supportive as we can virtually.

### **Ex Officio Communications**

Faculty Senate wanted to echo James Wheeler's thoughts, and said that he is very concerned for the future of the university, with the COVID crisis and unprecedented budget cuts coming. They are very happy to see that we are on the ball, and we will have to play ball, as the upcoming cuts are unprecedented.

Staff Senate reported that both professionally and with the Staff Senate hat on, I've been very impressed with Courtney and Riley. There's a lot going on, but I know that the university is committed to keeping us in the conversation. There are a lot of reports regarding budget reduction and COVID response groups and returning to campus safety and policy, and it's reassuring to know that all of campus is being represented. Thank you for having us here and welcome back.

Student Athlete Advisory Committee reported that they are going through a bit of a rebranding at the moment, and they will keep us updated on that. Also we're looking for ideas on how to keep the athlete experience as normal as possible, especially regarding our freshman who have moved on to campus but are just chilling in their dorms. We're looking for ways to involve them and involve others even with our own budget cuts to keep them entertained.

First-Year Senate reported that we are excited to be running First-Year Senate and that they are excited for the opportunity to work things in a new way. Applications for FYS are open until September 6<sup>th</sup>, if you know any first year students who would be a good fit for the role, please let them know or reach out to me for questions. Second, if anyone is interested in helping interview First-Year Senators, please reach out to me and I will send out a Doodle Poll asking for your availability.

Senator Wilkins motioned to recess for 15 minutes.

Senator Greig seconded.

Motion was adopted by a vote of 28-0-0.

The Senate reconvened at 8:58.

### **Committee Communications**

Steering reported that they will be meeting Friday at 1:00, and the deadline for legislation is Friday at noon.

Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy reported that they will be meeting on Friday at 4:00, though this is not a permanent time. They are looking forward to getting back in the swing of things.

Budget and Planning reported that they will be meeting tomorrow at 10:00, though this is not permanent. If anyone has any interest at being involved with the committee, they would love to have you.

Intercession Oversight Committee reported that they would give a brief overview of their five meetings over the summer. First, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Senator Hoversland was elected chair, and they used unspent ASTEC Salary to fund the Julian Abas Memorial Scholarship, which was \$5,000, half that went into the actual money that can be endowed, and half that can be spent right away. VP Titus or Account Schaefer can elaborate if needed. Second, the James Hurst Trust Agreement, one where it was for students who were in MSLI, and the exec branch wishes to update this, legislation is coming. Second, we discussed Student Success Priorities, as President Talamantes reported on, which we voted on. Third, we talked about end of year spending. Reference President Talamantes' report for further information. For June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we met again to discuss the campus reopening plan, and we made our comments as an IOC, though it has changed since then. They gave the student voice from the survey. They also approved a statement regarding ASUW's thoughts on the Black Lives Matter movement across the country. James Hurst did recently pass away, and the family has asked for donations, and we want to change that so we can use that scholarship money sooner rather than later. Finally, we wanted to change the name of the Charlotte Hearne Davis scholarship due to her past, so be on the lookout for legislation on that. Finally, we also discussed the fee petition and we were updated on how the student fee book was being done, and the Director of Financial Planning Analysis will be taking on that role. President Seidel did approve reverting those fees back to their original state. Finally, on the last meeting, we discussed the Sorority and Fraternity Life plans to hold a virtual Cowboy Carnival, and they had to realign money in order to do this. Finally, we discussed how Senate would look and decided it would be online, as this is the most successful.

Program and Institutional Development reported that they will be meeting Friday at 11:00, and over the recess they discussed the importance of making the effort to make sure that students have adequate communication with ASUW, even though they are online across the country and not on campus, and that this time is not a setback for them. We look forward to making legislation that ensured we have adequate communication with our partners and programs.

RSO Funding Board reported that they had discussed their goals for the semester, and they want to get creative with how they fund things given the virtual settings of the year. They believe they will be able to fund online conferences, which will be cheaper anyway. We want to find creative ways to get money back to students. They also want to look at the Finance Policy and amend that to make it accessible and easy for students to use. They expect to meet Mondays at 3:00, starting next week.

Student Outreach and Programming reported that they talked about many of the events that SOP has done in the past will not look the same, they anticipate working with the Director of Marketing to do online or other events, such as Pokes at Home from last spring. They do not have a meeting time yet as they are waiting for new Senators to give their thoughts.



Senator Wilkins moved to take a 15 minute recess.

Senator Houghton seconded.

The motion passed 28-0-0.

The Senate reconvened at 9:26.

### **College Contact Reports**

Agriculture and Natural Resources had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Arts and Sciences reported that they wanted to be transparent with their constituents, and set some goals to communicate to see what concerns may be had this year.

Business reported that they discussed altering the way they planned to do office hours.

Education is going to try to set up a meeting with the Dean of Education, and see if they can do a group office hour to work together to help the college.

Engineering and Applied Science reported that they discussed having group office hours as well as reaching out to Student Organizations.

Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources reported that their biggest concern was reaching out to the new Dean of the Haub School, and work on any sustainability projects they wanted to keep going.

Health Sciences had nothing new to report to the Senate.

Law had nothing new to report to the Senate.

School of Energy Resources had nothing new to report to the Senate.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM. The next regular meeting of the Senate will occur on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, at 7:00pm via a Zoom videoconference call.

Hunter Swilling  
ASUW Chief of Legislative Affairs - 108<sup>th</sup> Administration